Hope you are enjoying Kansas’ bi-polar weather! As a state, we are really making great strides toward meaningful use. At the end of December, 50 of our 95 ONC identified CAH and rural hospitals have adopted EHR technology and 32 had met meaningful use. On the Medicaid side, we’ve got 35 attesting (that’s just under $20 million dollars).

**Medicaid:** In response to a question from one of our members we have clarified the time periods for attesting to Medicaid. Generally, Medicaid attestation was designed to bring incentive funding to hospitals prior to meaningful use. However, some hospitals attested for Medicare Meaningful Use and are now interested in attesting to Medicaid. Bottom line, if you attest to Medicare MU first, your Medicaid attestation period is the same as your Medicare time frame. If you are in a full year of Meaningful Use for Medicare, your Medicaid time period is the same. In order to help me understand the options, I put together a number of Medicaid/Medicare Scenarios which may be a good resource for you as well.

**KHA Responds to CMS on Readiness of Quality Reporting Through Electronic Health Records:** KHA submitted comments to CMS on hospitals readiness to electronically report certain patient-level data under the inpatient quality reporting program beginning with calendar year 2014 discharges. The comment letter is available from the KHA website.

**Changes to Stage 1 Meaningful Use Measures Begin This Year:** The Stage 2 final rule made some changes to the Stage 1 meaningful use requirements effective this year and next. Effective immediately, participants no longer have to test the exchange of key clinical information as this objective was eliminated. An alternate calculation for CPOE and minor modifications to required vital signs are new and optional for 2013, then move to required for 2014. Online patient access to health information becomes a new major requirement for all participants in 2014 regardless of their stage of meaningful use. For more details please review the Stage 1 Changes Tipsheet. A Stage 1 & 2 comparison table for hospitals is available here.

Upcoming Education from KaMMCO: KaMMCO has a few Webinars that may be of interest to HIT professionals. On March 27, they will discuss medical liability and electronic medical records and on April 2, they will review data security and privacy. Additional information will be posted next week at www.KaMMCO.com.

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